



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

REGULAR MEETING

Moderator Syma Ebbin called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

30 members were present and a quorum was declared.

Moderator Ebbin welcomed new member Adam Puccino representing District 1.

A. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Moderator Ebbin, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Bordelon, Rep. Casper, Rep. Chase, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Gustavson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Hanscom, Rep. Marshall, Rep. Martin, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Mello Miller, Rep. Melendez, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Perry, Rep. Powers, Rep. Puccino, Rep. Richards, Rep. Rogers, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Strode, Rep. Welles, Rep. Whitehouse and Rep. Whitney
Members Absent: Rep. Cini, Rep. Doyle, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. Oliver, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Quinn, Rep. Stanford, Rep. Wagner and Rep. Washington

Also present were Town Manager John Burt, Finance Director Cindy Landry, Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director Robert Zagami, Mayor Patrice Granatosky, Town Councilors David Atwater and Juliette Parker, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Graner, and Assistant Superintendent of Schools Susan Austin, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Deputy Town Clerk Dawn Rahilly.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2018

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Monaghan, seconded by Rep. Powers.

The motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

Moderator Ebbin requested that the discussion of the Rules of the Thirty-First RTM, section 6.5.3, be amended to 6.5, the section that was suspended.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Ebbin reported that Reps. Massett, Stanford and Cini notified the Town Clerk of their absences.

The Moderator reported that she received a letter from Robert Frank expressing his concern regarding possible changes at the Groton Transfer Station.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Town Manager John Burt reported that the Fund Balance as of April 30, 2018 is approximately \$8.9 million, which is 7.4% of the FYE 2018 General Fund adjusted Budget. Mr. Burt reported

that the General Contingency budget for FYE 2018 stands at \$244, 325. He reported that the Capital Reserve Fund balance is estimated to be at 1.1 million.

2. Monthly briefing

Town Manager Burt reported that the Town Council discussed the transfer station options at the May 8, 2018 meeting. The Groton Resource Recovery Authority are having a meeting after the Special Committee of the Whole meeting on May 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex.

G. REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

None.

H. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

I. LIAISON REPORTS

Town Council

Rep. Kotowski reported on meetings held on April 17, 2018, April 24, 2018, May 1, 2018 and May 8, 2018. The report is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Economic Development

Rep. Whitehouse gave the Liaison Report for the Economic Development Commission. The report is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Washington

No meeting, no report.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES -Chairman Oliver

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Whitney

No meeting, no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Mello Miller

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman J. Streeter

Chairman J. Streeter read the minutes of the meeting held on May 9, 2018. The minutes are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. J. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.

The Moderator called for a motion to veto the Town Council's approval of the Ordinance. There was no motion to veto.

2018-0124 Adoption of an Ordinance Amending Various Ordinances to Increase Fines

ORDINANCE #287 TO AMEND SECTIONS 1-7, 7-31, 10-101, 10-140, 10-184, 11-56 AND 11-81 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF GROTON THAT:

Sections 1-7, 7-31, 10-101, 10-140, 10-184, 11-56 and 11-81 of the Town of Groton Code of Ordinances are amended as follows:

1. Sec. 1-7. - General penalty.

(a) Whenever in this Code or any other ordinance of the town, or rule or regulation promulgated by any officer thereof under authority vested in him by law or ordinance, any act is prohibited or is declared to be unlawful or an offense, or the doing of any act is required, or the failure to do any act is declared to be unlawful, where no specific penalty is provided, the violation of such ordinance, rule or regulation shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$250.00. Each day any such violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

(b) The imposition of any punishment under this Code shall not prevent the enforced abatement of any lawful condition by the town.

(c) Any condition caused or permitted to exist in violation of any of the provisions of this Code, officially designated as such and each day that such condition continues shall be regarded as a new and separate offense.

2. Sec. 7-31. - Notice of violation; fines.

Whenever any police officer finds any vehicle in violation of section 7-30, he shall attach to such vehicle a notice to the owner or operator that such vehicle has been parked in violation of the law. Said notice shall indicate the nature of the violation and the amount of the fine and shall instruct such owner/operator how and by when payment of the fine may be made and the consequences for failing to pay the fine in full within the time provided by this section. The amount of the fine shall be \$50.00 if payment in full is received at police headquarters within fourteen days of the date on which such notice was attached to the owner/operator's vehicle. The fine shall be \$100.00 if payment in full is received at police headquarters after the fourteenth but no later than the thirtieth day after the notice was placed on the vehicle. Payment may be made either in person at the police headquarters or by mail addressed to police headquarters and postmarked before the end of the fourteenth or the end of the thirtieth day period, as the case may be. The Police Chief may designate other acceptable means of payment from time to time, provided he gives prior written notice thereof to the Town Council. If such owner/operator does not pay the full amount of the fine before the end of the thirtieth day after the notice was placed on the vehicle, the police department shall cause such owner or operator to be prosecuted for such violation in the court having jurisdiction of such violations.

3. Sec. 10-101. - Permit-Required for persons over 16.

It shall be unlawful for any person over the age of 16 to solicit orders of purchase for future delivery of any goods, wares or merchandise including magazines and other printed matter, from door to door or on any street or highway within the town without first obtaining from the chief of police a solicitor's permit to do so and paying the chief of police the fee therefor, the amount of which shall be established by the Town Council by resolution from time to time.

4. Sec. 10-140. - Violations/penalties

(a) Any person, partnership or corporation who is found to have violated this article shall be fined a definite sum not exceeding \$250.00 for each such violation.

(b) Each violation of this chapter shall be considered a separate offense, and any violation continuing more than one day of time shall be considered a separate offense for each day of violation.

(c) Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to limit any remedy the town may have for the enforcement of this chapter.

5. Sec. 10-184. - Violation and penalty.

Every person, except those persons who are specifically exempt by this article, whether acting as individuals, owner, employee of the owner, operator or employee of the operator, or acting as a participant or worker in any way, who gives a massage or conducts a massage establishment without first obtaining a permit and paying a permit fee to the Town of Groton or shall violate any of the provisions of this article or of the rules and regulations established by the chief of police or the director of health pursuant to this article shall be subject to a fine not to exceed 250.00. Each violation of this chapter shall be considered a separate offense, and any violation continuing more than one day of time shall be considered a separate offense for each day of violation. Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to limit any remedy the town may have for the enforcement of this article.

6. Sec. 11-56. - Ticketing of violators; penalties.

Whenever any police officer finds any vehicle(s) in violation of any parking regulation or restriction, he shall attach to such vehicle(s) a notice to the owner or operator that such vehicle has been parked in violation of law. Said notice shall indicate the nature of the violation and the amount of the fine and shall instruct such owner/operator how and by when payment of the fine may be made and the consequences for failing to pay the fine in full within the time provided by this section.

(1) The amount of the fine shall be \$20.00, if payment in full is received at police headquarters within fourteen days of the date on which such notice was attached to the owner/operator's vehicle. The fine shall be \$40.00 if payment in full is received at police headquarters after the fourteenth but no later than the thirtieth day after the notice was placed on the vehicle. Payment may be made either in person at the police headquarters or by mail addressed to police headquarters and postmarked before the end of the fourteen or the end of the thirty day period, as the case may be. The Police Chief may designate other acceptable means of payment from time to time, provided he gives prior written notice thereof to the Town Council.

(2) If such owner/operator does not pay the full amount of the fine before the end of the thirtieth day after the notice was placed on the vehicle, the police department shall cause such owner/operator to be prosecuted for such violation in the court having jurisdiction of such violations.

7. Sec. 11-81. - Bus motor vehicles in livery service.

(a) Legislative finding. The operation of motor vehicles of the bus type in livery service for the purpose of conducting commercial tours on any of the enumerated public streets or highways, which streets or highways are narrow, without adequate sidewalks, and frequently congested, endangers the safety of pedestrians and other travelers on such streets or highways, especially children and the elderly, and constitutes a noisome, unreasonable and unnecessary invasion of the property and privacy rights of residents and property owners.

(b) Definitions. The term "motor vehicle of the bus type in livery service" means and includes every motor vehicle with a seating capacity of ten or more passengers which is used for the transportation of passengers for hire with the exceptions noted in C.G.S. § 13b-101.

(c) Acts prohibited. No person shall operate a motor vehicle of the bus type in livery service on any of the following public streets or highways:

Academy Lane
Bank Street
Burrows Street

Clift Street
Eldridge Street
Elm Street (Mystic)
Fort Rachel Place
Front Street
Gravel Street
Grove Avenue
High Street (Noank)
High Street, Mystic from Noank Road (Route #215) north to Cow Hill Road/Allyn Street connector
Library Street
Military Highway between Grove Avenue and Crystal Lake Road
Palmer Court (Noank)
Park Place
Pearl Street (Mystic)
Pearl Street (Noank)
Riverview Avenue (Noank)
Starr Street
Ward Avenue
West Mystic Avenue

(d) Penalty. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than \$250.00 for each offense.

8. This Ordinance Amendment shall be effective forty-five (45) days after its enactment by the Town Council, unless vetoed by the RTM

9. Each section of this Ordinance shall be effective on May 18, 2018.

Dated at Groton, Connecticut. 4th day of April, 2018.

Attest:

Betsy Moukawsher
Groton Town Clerk

No action taken

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Newsome

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Richards

Chairman Richards read the minutes of the May 1, 2018 meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Richards, seconded by Rep. Monaghan and so voted unanimously.

2018-0111 Revise the RTM Rules to Move Committee Business

REVISE RTM RULES TO MOVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The RTM does here by amend Section 5 of the RTM Rules of the 31st Representative Town Meeting to move item (J) Reports of Committees to the line above item (F) Report of Town Manager on the agenda.

No action taken

2018-0112 Review of the Rules of the 31st RTM

REVIEW OF THE RULES OF THE 31st RTM

The RTM shall consider rule 6.5.3 in order to clarify the intent, to consider an exemption to committee review rule 6.5.2 in order to allow matters to come before the RTM for a vote without suspending the rules.

No action taken

2018-0056 Three Referrals from Rep. Kotowski

Various Proposed Changes to the 31st RTM Rules and Procedures

1. Referral items to the RTM without time for consideration by a Committee may not entertain a motion to move the question during debate.

2. RTM Committee meetings shall not be held before a regular or special RTM meeting.

3. Move the start time for regular RTM meetings to 7:00 pm.

No action taken

K. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

None.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

M. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Rep. Whitehouse, seconded by Rep. Gustavson.

The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Dawn G. Rahilly, Deputy Town Clerk